

CZERNIN QUILTS POST; FITTLE PEACE MOVES WITH FRANCE REASON

PUBLICATION OF LETTER FROM AUSTRIA IN WHICH CHARLES ADMITTED FRENCH HAD RIGHT TO ALSACE-LORRAINE BRINGS ABOUT FOREIGN MINISTER'S FALL.

Amsterdam, April 15.—Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, has resigned, according to a dispatch from Vienna.

Emperor Charles accepted the resignation and entrusted Count Czernin with the conduct of foreign affairs until his successor is appointed.

The recent publication by the French government of the fittle peace appeal sent out by Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary in March, 1917, and the efforts of the emperor and the Austro-Hungarian foreign office to explain this letter to the satisfaction of Germany and the German emperor probably were the most potent influences in bringing about the resignation of Count Czernin.

Since he was appointed foreign minister on Dec. 23, 1916, in succession to Baron Burián, Count Czernin has been very active in trying to bring about peace, and the moderate tone of his speeches has been in sharp contrast with that of the German chancellors and foreign secretaries. However, his participation in the forced peace on Russia as well as that on Rumania did not show that his actions kept up with his words.

In the "peace offensive" of the present year Count Czernin, in the Rumanian reichthaus on June 25, suggested an exchange of views between Austria-Hungary and the United States.

He announced also that Austria based her negotiations with Russia on the policy of no annexation or indemnity, but there always was some doubt whether his pacifist manœuvres were honest or were inspired by Berlin in an effort to bring about a split among the Allies.

Count Czernin on April 4 in an address at Vienna declared Premier Clemenceau has sought peace negotiations with Austria. He said that the premier replied that Czernin lied. The French and Austrian foreign offices then issued statements explaining the unofficial negotiations in Switzerland. Early last week the French government declared Emperor Charles and Count Czernin both had said the claim of France to Alsace-Lorraine was just. This brought a denial from Emperor Charles in the form of a telegram to William, to whom he reiterated his loyalty to the German cause and denied that he had said France was justified in wanting Alsace-Lorraine returned.

This immediately brought from the French government the publication of a letter from Emperor Charles to his brother in law, Prince Sixtus of Bourbon, which was autographed and which the emperor asked be given to President Poincaré. In the letter the emperor said France should have Alsace-Lorraine and that Belgium and Serbia should be restored. He also asked that London and Paris be left out as to probable peace terms.

German newspapers have attacked both Emperor Charles and his foreign secretary because of this letter and attempts have been made to show that it was not written by the emperor. It has been reported in Vienna that there was no attempt to hide its authenticity, but that the French version was garbled. It also has been reported that the letter was written by the emperor's mother in law.

Count Czernin was in Rumania when the letter was published by the French government and he was summoned to Vienna on Friday.

Count Ottokar Czernin von Chadenitz, a wealthy Bohemian land owner, was minister to Rumania when that country entered the war. Within six weeks after the death of Emperor Francis Joseph, Count Czernin was appointed foreign minister by Emperor Charles. Count Czernin is a very close friend of Count Berchtold, foreign minister at the outbreak of the war, and who has been reported as the political mentor of the young emperor. Count Berchtold has been opposed to the pro-German war party and his resignation was brought about by them.

In addition to being foreign minister, Count Czernin was premier and chancellor of the dual empire. He is about 61 years old.

An official statement received here today from Vienna asserts that the latest statements of the French premier, M. Clemenceau, concerning the conversations between Austria and France regarding the possibility of opening peace negotiations, do not alter the situation as regards the majority of Count Czernin's declarations.

The Austrian foreign ministry, the statement says, is unable to ascertain who was responsible for delivering to the French what is said to have been a forged letter, substituted for the letter which was to have been delivered. Neither Prince Sixtus, whose character is beyond suspicion, nor any one else is accused of falsification, continues the statement, which concludes:

"The affair is herewith declared to be at an end."

Amsterdam, April 15.—Count Czernin did not know of Emperor Charles' letter to Prince Sixtus when he made the statement that France had initiated the conversations with Austria, according to a Vienna dispatch to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin. On learning of the letter he resigned, but yielded to a request that he remain in office until the conclusion of the peace agreement with Rumania.

BOMBARDMENT IN LIBERIA KILLS 3

Washington, April 15.—Three children were killed when the German submarine bombarded the port of Monrovia, capital of Liberia, on April 19, the State Department was advised in a report today from American Charge Bundy. Three persons were also injured.

The bombardment followed a demand on the Liberian government that it destroy the French wireless station in Monrovia.

THIRD LIBERTY LOAN TOTAL IS \$539,426,100

Washington, April 15.—Subscriptions to the third Liberty loan reported to federal reserve banks today as the first quarter of the drive was passed totaled \$539,426,100, or slightly more than one-sixth of the minimum amount sought by Secretary McAdoo. These figures are based on reports to federal reserve banks in all of the federal reserve districts of the country except Minneapolis. Only a part of the reported subscriptions have been received by the federal reserve banks in binding form.

LABOR CLASS IN HUB TAKES OUT \$300,000

Boston, April 15.—Organized labor's contribution to Boston during the first week of the Liberty loan campaign amounted to about \$300,000, President McGrady of the Central Labor union and chairman of the state labor loan committee, announced last night. Although the specific amounts from the various unions were not given, Mr. McGrady said that total has been subscribed from union treasuries and by members who bought their bonds through these organizations. The subscriptions were largely the result of 61 meetings during the week which were addressed by a corps of speakers from the central body.

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AMERICAN SOLDIERS DID BRILLIANT WORK IN WOOD

With the French Army in France, Sunday, April 14.—(By the Associated Press)—American soldiers did brilliant work in the stiff fighting on Friday at Brule wood, in the forest of Apremont, Lorraine.

An account of the engagement shows that at 4:30 o'clock in the morning after a short and severe bombardment 500 Germans attempted to occupy a first line trench. Small bodies of famous French troops which formed the advanced posts, resisted the enemy until their ammunition was exhausted.

Then they retired to obtain supplies. The French commander immediately organized a counter attack, in which American troops participated, and after fierce fighting ejected the enemy. The ground was strewn with German dead.

Shortly afterward groups of Germans were seen to be creeping into the first line of the American position, which had been voluntarily left unoccupied. American soldiers dashed forward from the support line, engaging in grenade fighting and hand-to-hand encounters, and after a severe engagement repulsed the Germans. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and left behind 24 prisoners.

SECTION ADDED TO NEW HAVEN

New Haven, April 15.—New Haven as a city grew in size today. Ward 14, in the Fair Haven district, voted to join the city at a special election, 195 to 138. The ward voters heretofore had the right to vote for mayor, but they paid for their own fire and police protection. The matter of annexation was decided by the voters in the ward. There still is a borough, a school district and a ward within the town boundaries which stand aloof.

SIGNS BALL BILL.

Boston, April 15.—The bill allowing men in the army and navy to play baseball and football on Sunday was signed today by Gov. McCall. The bill stipulates that games shall not start before 1 p. m. and that no admission will be charged.

5 SOLDIERS DIE IN TRAIN WRECK ON LONG ISLAND

New York, April 15.—Five soldiers were killed, 10 were seriously injured and 23 were slightly hurt today in a wreck on the Long Island railroad near Central Islip. All the dead and injured are said to have been stationed in Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I.

A car near the middle of the 13 car train jumped the track, taking four others with it. The accident is believed to have been caused by a split rail. The injured were removed to the state hospital in Central Islip, and to hospitals in Camp Upton.

Three of the derailed cars toppled over an embankment.

Three of the soldiers were killed outright and two died later.

MORE DRAFTEES ORDERED FROM CONNECTICUT

Orders received yesterday at Governor Marcus H. Hokecomb's office in Hartford by Major John Buckley, from Provost Marshal General Crowder, provide for the calling of 969 additional draftees in this state, the men to entrain for Fort Slocum in five day period beginning May 1. Local boards in Connecticut now have two draft calls awaiting them. Arrangements have been practically completed, it is thought, for the entraining from April 26 to April 30 of the selectives called for under an earlier order. The men who leave then will go to Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I. Instead of ordering all men from this state to Camp Devens, which policy was followed out in early contingents, the provost marshal general has decreed that the next increment shall go to Camp Upton, and that the following men will go to Fort Slocum, N. Y.

Explanation is made in the telegram that the 969 men called for is approximately 5.1 per cent. of the first gross quota, and the request is made that conferences be held with the representative of the American Railway Association. The men will be inducted out of Class 1, in sequence of order number. No allowance is to be made at this time for voluntary enlistments; that is, the local boards will not be credited with enlistments of men registered with the respective boards. Credit will be given later.

Hartford is to send 219 men to Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I., on the call beginning April 26. While no local board quotas for the Fort Slocum call have been arranged as yet, the telegram making provision for only the state quota, it is thought that about 100 men from this city will qualify under the latest call, and will begin the life of a soldier at Fort Slocum.

Text of Telegram.

The telegram follows:

"Call number 16 upon your state is hereby announced as follows: 'During the five day period beginning May 1, complete the entraining for Fort Slocum, N. Y., of 969 men, which is approximately 5.1 per cent. of the first gross quota allotted to your state. White men and men physically qualified for general military service may be inducted under this call.'

"By making a level draft on your board of 5.1 per cent. of your first gross quota, you will be able to furnish both your boards and the representative of the American Railway Association within your state within a few days' information as to the number of men to be entrained by each local board concerned in this movement. Confer with the representative of the American Railway Association as to schedules as heretofore.

"In filling this call men should be inducted out of Class 1 in sequence of order numbers, except that the provisions of my telegram number B eight, dated March 11, relating to men actively, completely and assiduously engaged in the planting and cultivation of crops should be followed.

"The number of men called for under the above call must be actually entrained, and you are authorized to make any adjustments in your allotments to local boards to produce this result. The percentage of your first gross quota is given for your guidance in making your allotments to local boards only. Men furnished under this call will be credited against your next net quota. Advise this office by letter the allotments you make to each local board."

PROPOSAL SENT TO ALL OF THE ALLIES

Paris, April 12.—The letter written by Emperor Charles to Prince Sixtus of Bourbon outlining the means by which France might attain peace was on its receipt immediately communicated to all of France's allies, says the Petit Parisien. It was unanimously decided, the paper adds, at an inter-allied conference which was held soon after that, that there was no occasion to act on the emperor's suggestion.

ARMY CAMP WILL SELL FERTILIZER

In view of the shortage of commercial fertilizers it is interesting to learn that arrangements have been made to use the manure from several thousand horses at Camp Devens, which can be secured in car lots of 25 to 35 tons.

Information as to terms, methods of shipment, etc., can be secured through the Fairfield County Farm Bureau, Post Office Building, Danbury, (tel. 1453-2); or anyone wishing to do business direct with the contractor can address R. L. Bradley, Ayer, Mass.

If farmers, home garden committees, or committees directing the work of the Junior Food Army members and planning children's gardens or community plots are unable to secure commercial or other fertilizers, this may help to solve the problem.

NEWTON HOTEL MAN IS DEAD

Newtown, April 15.—William A. Leonard, borough treasurer, for 25 years proprietor of the Newtown Inn, and the best-known hotel man in southern New England, died late Saturday night at his home here, aged 58. He retired from the hotel management about four years ago.

AGED OIL PRODUCER DEAD

Joplin, Mo., April 12.—John H. Galey, aged 73, widely known oil producer, died at his home here this morning. Galey drilled the first oil well in the Pennsylvania fields and owned the far famed Beaumont gusher. Three years ago Galey came to the lead and zinc district here and became interested in several properties.

ALLIED NAVAL CRAFT AID IN COMBING SEA FOR MISSING COLLIER

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS THINK "CYCLOPS" HAD GERMAN AGENTS ABOARD WHO TOOK CONTROL OF SHIP AFTER OVERPOWERING CREW—USE HER AS RAIDER.

Washington, April 15.—Orders for greater efforts to find the missing naval collier Cyclops, overdue from South American waters for more than a month, went out today to American ships. In addition, Allied naval craft on patrol duty in the south are aiding in the search. Secretary Daniels said today that he still clung to the hope that the vessel would report.

One of the Cyclops's engines was damaged, but it is not believed that the engine trouble had anything to do with the disappearance.

Constructors said the Cyclops was one of the staunchest craft of the auxiliary fleet of the navy.

The possibility was suggested that the ship might have been captured in large quantities with the manganese ore and a time bomb set to explode the mass. In that case, however, the sea would be covered with wreckage.

Naval officials were no nearer today to a solution of the disappearance than they were three weeks ago when anxiety over the safety of the ship first developed. There is absolutely nothing on which to found an explanation. The big carrier has simply vanished from the sea.

Suggestion heard most frequently were that German agents had boarded the ship in port and captured her from her people at sea; that she had broken in two and gone down in a sudden squall; that she had been overtaken by a submarine and sunk without trace; and that an internal explosion had sent her down.

All of these suggestions had flaws in them, officials said. A theory that she had been captured by a group of German agents aboard appeared to be the only explanation that would account for the silence of her wireless equipment.

Naval vessels have patrolled all coasts in the vicinity of her route, looking for wreckage or survivors. Every vessel known to have been anywhere in the region at the time has been communicated with. None saw or heard anything of the collier.

Reports from every source showed nothing to warrant the storm theory. It is the mid season of the year in those waters.

The ship had aboard an insufficient quantity of coal for a journey to the nearest German port had she been captured. Some officers think that if the ship was captured her captors may be holding her out of trade routes waiting for a chance steamer from which to obtain coal.

The explosion theory is met by the fact that only sufficient ammunition early last night with the intention of occupying the great forest of Nieppe, but gained only a few hundred yards at the expense of heavy casualties and the British front this morning lies in front of the forest.

The fighting today evidently is intended to give the Germans an opportunity to get around the British positions in the Ypres salient, which is strongly held.

Neuve Eglise was the scene of a hand to hand struggle which resulted in the Germans getting a foothold in the village, but enemy frontal attacks on the Messines ridge were beaten off.

By a counter attack the British and French south of the river Somme yesterday afternoon recaptured Hangard, which the Germans had strongly fortified. The Allied forces also took which was full of machine guns. Some prisoners were taken.

Washington, April 15.—Ensign Lloyd A. Perry, U. S. N. R., was killed in a seaplane accident in France April 12, the navy department was advised today. His widow lives in Oconomowoc, Wis.

AVIATOR 16 YRS. OLD REPORTED HUN CAPTIVE

Westbury, L. I., April 15.—Corporal Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., 16 year old son of Major Thomas Hitchcock, and an aviator with the Lafayette escadrille, was slightly wounded when captured by the Germans on March 6, last, according to a cable message received by his mother here today from the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

First reports of the young flier's capture said he had disappeared while pursuing a German plane far back of the German lines. Today's cablegram indicated that his machine was not brought down until after a fight.

Young Hitchcock had brought down two German planes in one day previously.

HUN'S TORPEDO KILLED 4 MEN ABOARD VESSEL

An Atlantic Port, April 15.—Four lives were lost when the Leyland line steamer Etonian was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off the Irish coast on March 23, according to members of the crew who arrived here today on a British steamer. Two of these killed were American horsemen, the others members of the fire room crew.

On the same steamer was the crew of the American steamer Chattahoochee, formerly the German steamer Sachsen, torpedoed and sunk March 23. The ship remained afloat for two hours, the men said, and efforts were made to beach her, but without success. The crew was picked up by British trawlers.

GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER CROP

Fargo, N. D., April 12.—All wheat in the hands of farmers has been requisitioned by the United States government, according to an announcement made here today by Dr. E. F. Ladd, state food administrator.

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HOUSE WRECKED IN BIG STORM

Fort Worth, Tex., April 15.—Sixty houses, including a two story brick school and several churches, have been demolished by a storm in Boyd, 30 miles north of Fort Worth, late Sunday afternoon, according to reports to Fort Worth by messenger this morning. No one was injured. Both telegraph and telephone wires were down.

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TURNING POINT IN FIGHTING ON WEST FRONT HAS BEEN REACHED; CAPITOL REVIEWS OPERATIONS

Washington, April 15.—The turning point in the battle on the western front is being reached, says the war department's review of the military situation for the week ending April 13, published today. The Germans have failed in their purpose to achieve victory in the field, the statement says, and will soon be forced to resume their old tactics.

"We must bear in mind," the review says, "that the enemy is waging a battle of annihilation to achieve victory. He is fighting today with the sole aim of annihilating the British army. Thus, terrain conquered accounts for little."

"While it must be admitted that German operations since the beginning of the present offensive have resulted in more than a mere ploughing up of part of the Allied trench system and the capture of local objectives along a wide front, nevertheless the aim of the German higher command to obtain a decisive strategic success by these assaults has not been attained."

"The turning point in the west is being reached. The Germans have scored a distinct advantage which it would be unwise to endeavor to belittle. Yet they have failed in their great purpose to achieve victory in the field and will soon be forced to resume their old tactics, seeking to gain limited objectives, striking first at one point, then at another in order to render the Allied position untenable and give themselves greater security."

"The review of operations follows: 'As time passes it becomes evident that the enemy is striking with renewed vigor at the weakest point he can find opposite him.'

"In the offensive in Picardy the Germans sought for a rift in the line where the French and the British forces joined. Failing to achieve any definite far reaching result from this operation, they promptly returned to the assault elsewhere, hoping to roll the British toward the sea and effect a break through."

"This is the operation attempted this week in the region of the famous battle ground of the early days of the war in front of Lille. The British were compelled to give ground after the Portuguese positions had been broken through and have since retired, abandoning Armentieres and other points. The front of attack has since been farther extended and the British have been forced to abandon positions to the north and south of the Lys and west of the Lawe."

"The enemy has made headway along the Basses canal to the immediate vicinity of Bethune, while other points northwest of the city, of considerable tactical importance, have fallen into the hands of the enemy."

"The enemy now finds himself within 40 miles of Calais. The main lines of communication to channel ports radiate vertically from this battle front and thus facilitate the German advance."

"If the enemy can muster the driving power he will in all probability continue his assaults, hoping that by an enveloping attack on an oblique front he may score a complete annihilation victory."

"There has been less activity along the southern flank of the Picardy salient. Here the line taken over by the French now is fully consolidated. The Germans by stubborn and costly thrusts were able to force the French out of the triangular area formed by the Oise, the Ailette and the old line stretching from La Fere to Anizy le Chateau. The French were able to check the enemy's onslaught and carry out their carefully arranged plan for the occupation of the line which they now hold south of the Ailette."

"The German high command also made desperate attempt to enlarge its gains in the area stretching from Montdidier to Noyon, but they were everywhere repulsed by the French. 'North of the Somme the British re-established their line in the Aveluy woods and took a number of prisoners.'

"Later in the week very heavy bombardments developed in the region east of Noyon and north of Montdidier. 'In the sectors where our own forces are fighting considerable activity prevailed. Northwest of Toul our artillery was able to disperse the assaulting columns. Our own infantry counter attacked and drove off the remnants of the enemy units. A number of prisoners were taken. Our casualties were relatively slight.'

"The enemy also executed a minor raid against one of our outposts in the Woëvre. Hostile artillery has been active throughout the week both in the Woëvre and along our positions in the Meuse hills and in the Vosges."

"Lively shelling took place along the whole Italian front and the Allies executed a number of minor raids in the Asiago region. 'The re-grouping of forces has been going on and the continuation of concentration of hostile units is reported. 'The probability of an enemy offensive in this area as soon as the weather becomes more favorable is increasing.'

"While no events bearing directly on the general military situation took place in the east, it is to be noted that German and Finnish forces have occupied and passed beyond Tammerfors and hostile units are moving northward with the object of cutting the Russian railroad through Finland to Sweden."

In Spain the situation remains obscure. The Japanese landing in Vladivostok has been followed by the landing of a British force."

FRESH ASSAULT MADE BY HUNS ON BAILLEUL

With the British Army in France, April 15.—The latest phase of the battle of Armentieres is a determined German attack in the direction of Bailleul from the south. Yesterday's all day of fighting resulted in the retirement of the British forces farther west of Merville.

The enemy made a fresh assault early last night with the intention of occupying the great forest of Nieppe, but gained only a few hundred yards at the expense of heavy casualties and the British front this morning lies in front of the forest.

The fighting today evidently is intended to give the Germans an opportunity to get around the British positions in the Ypres salient, which is strongly held.

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CROWDS CHEER WILSON IN CAPITAL OF BOHEMIA

CROWDS GATHER AFTER CZECH MEMBERS HOLD MEETING—SHOUT DISAPPROVAL OF CZERNIN AND SING ANTI-GERMAN SONGS.

Amsterdam, April 15.—Thousands of persons gathered in the streets of Prague, capital of Bohemia, on Saturday, denounced the Germans and cheered the Entente and President Wilson, says a dispatch from that city, to the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin.

All the Czech members of parliament and party delegates, together with Slovins and Herbo-Croat delegates, met in the town hall and adopted a manifesto. The crowd gathered in the streets outside the hall in support of the policy of the delegates. The principal demonstration occurred at the close of the meeting. The feeling against Foreign Minister Czernin was shown today by the shouts of disapproval with which his name was greeted. The crowds dispersed singing anti-German songs.

A conference of representatives of all Czech parties in Dux, the dispatch says, unanimously opposed a German-Bohemian province, asserting that the Czech minority in the German-speaking region would resist Germanization to the utmost.

MONEY TAKEN FROM FINANCE FUND FOR R. R.

New York, April 15.—The first large payment made by the United States government to a railroad since it took control of the railroads was announced today with the receipt by the Bankers' Trust Co. from the treasury department in Washington of \$42,964,000 to take up outstanding notes of the New York, New Haven & Hartford.

Chicago, April 13.—W. H. Stead, former attorney general of Illinois and present director of trade and commerce in the administration of Governor Lowden, committed suicide in a hotel here today.

ILLINOIS MAN KILLS SELF

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